Paper Helicopter

Make your own helicopter and watch it twirl!

Kit contains:

- Helicopter template
- Paper clip

You will need: scissors and coloring supplies such markers, crayons, or colored pencils (optional).

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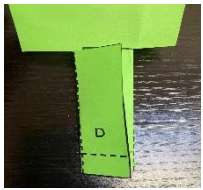
INSTRUCTIONS

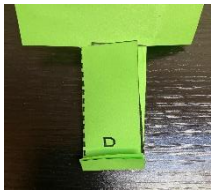
Step 1. Decorate your helicopter (optional).

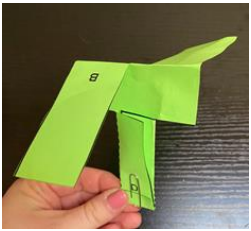
Step 2. Cut the template on all solid lines.

Step 3. Fold the template on dotted lines:

- Fold A one way and B the opposite way.
- Fold C and D so they overlap.
- Fold up the small bottom flap.







Step 4. Put the paper clip over the bottom flap.

Step 5. Toss your helicopter in the air or drop it from a height and watch it twirl down!

(Helicopter template: https://www.papertoys.com/spinning-helicopter.htm)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

As the helicopter falls, air pushes up against the "blades" (parts A & B), bending them just a little. Tilting the blades makes faster moving air on top, which creates the force of lift. Also, the air is pushing on both blades in opposite directions, which makes it spin instead of moving sideways.

Igor Sikorsky designed the first successful helicopter in the late 1930s. His inspiration came from drawings made by Leonardo da Vinci nearly 500 years before. Nowadays, we use helicopters for lots of things – medical transport, reporting news events, military operations, fighting fires, construction projects, rescuing people … even on Mars! Look on the back to learn more!

(Some information taken from: https://www.exploratorium.edu/science_explorer/roto-copter.html AND https://s.si.edu/2RtkzcK)

Did you know there's a helicopter being used on another planet? Recently, NASA scientists designed a helicopter, named Ingenuity, to be used on Mars! Its first successful flight was April 19 and the rover Perseverance took a video of it, which you can see here:

https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-ingenuity-mars-helicopter-succeeds-in-historic-first-flight

There are even "helicopters" in nature! In mid-May, there are lots of maple tree seeds on the ground. They float down from the tree like a helicopter. If you see some on the ground, toss them in the air and watch how they come down!